



## **Puts BGAMUG in the Circle of Winners**

by Jerry Gillette

Almost 30 worthy community service projects were submitted from user groups around the world to the Jerry Awards Committee of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) for consideration.

The Jerry Awards recognize and reward community service projects by user groups. The funds that are awarded to a group are used to further the projects in their community.

The winners of the APCUG 2002 Jerry Awards were announced during the APCUG events at Fall Comdex in Las Vegas. Of the 30 entries, there were only 7 winners. We are pleased to announce BGAMUG was one of the winners after submitting details of our current and ongoing community service Fern Terrace project.

The Fern Terrace Project was started in the spring of 2002, where BGAMUG members mentor residents in the facilities computer lab almost every week.

In addition to the honor of being recognized BGAMUG received a check for \$500, thanks to sponsors Adobe Systems, Microsoft Corporation, and the National Cristina Foundation.



From 2005 to 2007 the computers at the lab showed signs age and members lost interest in participating. During this period, Colonel Raymond Hunton was solely responsible for BGAMUG's role at the lab. In a sad but necessary decision, BGAMUG discontinued our association with the lodge in 2007.

Below is the Daily News article about the launch of the project.



# Catching the computer bug

Group offers classes, provides volunteers to man facility's computer lab

By **Jason Dooley**, [jdooley@bgdailynews.com](mailto:jdooley@bgdailynews.com) -- 270-781-1700

For most of his life, James Prater knew very little about computers.

"I never really fooled with them much," Prater said Friday afternoon. "But now I'm learning a little more every day."

Prater, 57, and other residents of Fern Terrace Lodge, a personal care home on Shive Lane, are getting the chance to communicate via e-mail, play games and learn about other aspects of computer use. It is due to a test program instituted by the home's parent company, Owensboro-based Davco, that gives them access to eight computers and two printers in a lab in the building.

The program has caught on very well at the Bowling Green facility and is also being tried at other homes in the Davco system, said Shirley Hampton, activity and social coordinator for Fern Terrace.

"(The residents) really love it," Hampton said. "We open the lab at two o'clock every afternoon, and they stay in here until 4 or 4:30."

Fern Terrace got some help in the project from the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer Users Group, which has been offering classes and providing volunteers to man the lab so residents can use the computers, said BGAMUG member Jerry Gillette.

BGAMUG is offering the seminars every Friday afternoon and plans to add Tuesday and Saturday sessions soon, Gillette said.

The group also is gathering donations of old software that can be used in the lab, he said.

While surfing the Internet or sending e-mail are fine, the best part of having the computer lab is playing games, said Prater as he moved an eight of spades onto his nine of hearts in a game of solitaire.

"We have 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' on that one," Prater said, pointing to the computer next to him. "I like to play that, but I usually have to have someone else help me."

Helping out at Fern Terrace has benefited not only the residents, but also the BGAMUG members who volunteer, Gillette said.

"A lot of our members are novice computer users themselves, so we learn as much as the people we're helping do a lot of the time," he said.

Besides helping with the lab, BGAMUG also has a refurbishment service that takes old computers that are donated, fixes them up and then distributes them to needy families in the Bowling Green area, Gillette said.



Bowling Green Area Microcomputer Users Group member Kathy Stinson helps Fern Terrace Lodge resident with a computer game Friday at the facility. **Photo by Clinton Lewis**